

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for searching for media content, comprising:
 - receiving from a user a user profile which identifies preferred media sources;
 - receiving a search request from a user including at least one search criteria;
 - searching for media content based on the at least one search criteria and the user profile; and
 - displaying information regarding the media content to the user.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the media content includes at least one of a video, audio, a still image, printed material, text, a movie, and a television program.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the information regarding the media content includes availability information that indicates availability of media content, which meets the at least one search criteria, from at least one of the preferred media sources.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the availability information includes at least one of movie theater show time data, television broadcast data, and retail data.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the search for media content is performed on at least one database.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the user profile includes at least one of a zip code and a television provider data.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - providing online purchase capabilities such that the user is able to purchase at least one of the media content, tickets to view or hear the media content, and merchandise related to the media content.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the preferred media sources includes at least one of: i) at least one movie theater, ii) a local cable TV or satellite TV provider, iii) at least one preferred online retailer.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the search criteria includes at least one of title data, cast member data, and director data.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the information regarding the media content is displayed on at least one of: i) a display associated with a set-top box, ii) a display of a computer arrangement, a TV, a wireless device, and a cell phone.
11. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
notifying the user in the future when the media content becomes available from at least one of the preferred media sources, if the media content is not currently available from the at least one of the preferred media sources.
12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
notifying the user in the future when the media content becomes available from at least one non-preferred media source.
13. The method of claim 9, wherein the user is notified via at least one of email, instant message, and postal mail.
14. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
periodically searching for the availability information related to at least one of the preferred media sources if the media content is not currently available from the at least one of the preferred media sources.
15. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
requesting a user notification of when the media content becomes available from at least one preferred media source, if the media content is not currently available from the at least one preferred media source.
16. A method for providing a user with information regarding media content, comprising:
displaying on a single page information regarding availability of the media content from a plurality of media sources which are selected by a user.

17. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

allowing a user to request, from the single page, notification in the future when the media content becomes available from at least one of the media sources, if the media content is not currently available from the at least one of the media sources.

18. A system comprising:

a processor;

at least one computing arrangement configured to communicate with the processor via a communications network; and

a computer-readable storing medium storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being executed by the processor to implement a method for searching for media content, the set of instructions performing the steps of:

receiving from a user a user profile which identifies preferred media sources;

receiving a search request from a user including at least one search criteria;

searching for media content based on the at least one search criteria and the user profile; and

displaying information regarding the media content to the user.

19. An apparatus comprising:

means for processing;

means for communicating;

means for computing to communicate with the means for processing via the means for communicating; and

means for storing a set of instructions, the set of instructions capable of being executed by the means for processing to implement a method for searching for media content, the set of instructions performing the steps of:

receiving from a user a user profile which identifies preferred media sources;

receiving a search request from a user including at least one search criteria;

searching for media content based on the at least one search criteria and the user profile; and

displaying information regarding the media content to the user.